

1 William Brennan termed a robust public debate of  
2 significant social issues. The robust debate  
3 principle recognizes that in a crowd of speakers, it  
4 is necessary to turn down the volume of loud voices,  
5 like Clear Channel, Disney, Rupert Murdoch, in order  
6 to give others a chance to speak.

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Thank  
8 you very much. Larry Young.

9 MR. YOUNG: I just want to say first of  
10 all, I appreciate this opportunity to testify to all  
11 the Commissioners. And on a light note, this would  
12 be a wonderful opportunity for Commissioner  
13 Adelstein to perform, since we're in a theater.

14 Anyway, regardless, I just want to agree  
15 with the people in the most -- the people testifying  
16 most recently that definitely, I am opposed to any  
17 further consolidation and to reflect on it. And  
18 also to back up Dr. Ed Arke's testimony about no one  
19 from Clear Channel is here, isn't that kind of a  
20 coincidence?

21 Let's see what else, quick here. I  
22 spoke with a friend of mine and he mentioned how  
23 their rates were a lot higher with the Clear Channel  
24 radio station. And as far as television stations in  
25 the Harrisburg market, there's five major ones and

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)

1 Clear Channel owns two. So that would come out to  
2 what, 40 percent? That's not quite a monopoly, but  
3 approaching it.

4 Anyway, also if anyone saw the hearing  
5 in Los Angeles, that was a quite lively one. This  
6 one is getting somewhat lively, but not as lively as  
7 that one.

8 And regardless, again, that's my bottom  
9 line is, please reconsider the consolidation and I  
10 appreciate this opportunity. Have a great day.

11 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Julio  
12 Pasmingno.

13 MR. PASMINGNO: Thanks. It's great to  
14 be able to talk to you. I've worked in government,  
15 I've worked in city state and federal government.  
16 I've also worked in nonprofits administering a state  
17 contract. I'm Latino. My parents are from Ecuador  
18 but I was born here. And I have three points really  
19 to make.

20 One is, when I was working for childcare  
21 subsidies, trying to get childcare to parents so  
22 that they could work, a lot of them were single  
23 family, you know, just the mother. And I said  
24 where's the father? A lot of them were minority  
25 communities and some of the fathers were in jail.

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)

1 And then I checked into it. We have millions of  
2 people in jail that are minorities. They're the  
3 fathers. So what's happening to the children? What  
4 are we doing about it? Who is talking about it?  
5 You hear an angry black voice, but I don't many hear  
6 many whites discussing it.

7 When I was looking into quality  
8 childcare for Latino children, there was nobody to  
9 put a program on the ballot. And I hired a person  
10 who used to be community affairs in a Latino  
11 station, but when they were, you know "incorporized"  
12 or whatever, she had leave, because they ended that  
13 practice.

14 My other point is where are the voices  
15 for peace? I have to go to WYBE, our independent in  
16 Philadelphia to hear Democracy Now to listen to  
17 what's going on. I don't it anywhere else. We need  
18 all those voices. We need all the facts. If that  
19 had been out and the people had known about it, then  
20 people from around the world wouldn't be looking at  
21 us the way they are.

22 And I guess the last thing is, the  
23 airwaves belong to all of us. You are entrusted to  
24 make sure that they work effectively for us. So  
25 it's on your conscience really, do you sell to the

1 corporations or do you build a better democracy?

2 It's up to you.

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. John  
4 Haer.

5 MR. HARE: I'm John Haer. I'm Executive  
6 Director of the American Federation of Television  
7 and Radio Artists, the Pittsburgh Local. We  
8 represent on-air performers and journalists at three  
9 TV radio stations or three TV stations, eight radio  
10 stations and one radio network in Western  
11 Pennsylvania.

12 In the Pittsburgh market, seven of the  
13 top ten radio stations are owned by two entities,  
14 Clear Channel and CBS. Only two radio stations have  
15 a real news department and then only sometimes do  
16 they send out reporters to news events. Here's what  
17 my members tell me consolidation looks like from the  
18 inside out.

19 First of all, national corporate profit  
20 goals for each local affiliate means an increasing  
21 and unrelenting use of technology to reduce live  
22 employees and content. Evenings and weekends on  
23 radio, programs are almost totally automated. There  
24 is no on-air person present at the stations, even  
25 those that have the clusters of five or six

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)

1 stations.

2 Second, the stations, both radio and TV  
3 are already using the original broadcast material  
4 for the new digital platforms. They're streaming on  
5 the internet. They're multi-casting on the new  
6 digital HD streams. They're refashioning material  
7 for downloading to iPods and mobile phones. These  
8 new platforms, they offer a world-wide audience.  
9 They offer an open opportunity for any user to  
10 capture and reuse the content and they offer vast  
11 potential new revenue streams. Understand, our  
12 members, for the most part, are not compensated at  
13 all for these new duties and use and reuse of our  
14 material.

15 Finally, in TV, we see new demands on  
16 work processes which erode the journalistic role of  
17 our members. Camera technicians are increasingly  
18 sent out without reporters to simply ask prearranged  
19 questions. Reporters are increasingly pressured to  
20 carry --

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

22 MR. HAER: -- new small cameras just in  
23 case they would be needed. It's all de-emphasizing  
24 the core of localism, that is the heart, eyes and  
25 soul of local journalists. Thank you.

1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.  
2 Christopher Lacey.

3 MR. LACEY: I have good morning written  
4 here, but good afternoon. That's how long we've  
5 been here. And thank you for holding this public  
6 forum, before you Commissioners influence the  
7 future.

8 My name is Chris Lacey. I'm the  
9 Assistant Executive Director of the American  
10 Federation of Television and Radio Artists based out  
11 of Pittsburgh.

12 And I'm here to say, simply put, media  
13 consolidation reduced the number of working  
14 journalists in every community. The fourth estate  
15 is shrinking to the detriment of our communities.  
16 This fourth estate, as you well know, is one of the  
17 pillars of our society. And just as a weakened  
18 judicial legislative or executive branch would  
19 cripple our essential system of checks and balances,  
20 narrowing the number of opportunities for a  
21 diversity of voices and opinions on our public  
22 airways because a vertical market owned by a few  
23 conglomerates strikes at the foundation of the  
24 republic laid just miles east of here, right around  
25 230 years ago by this great nation's founders.

1                   This economy of scale that media  
2                   consolidation achieves does allow stockholders even  
3                   greater profits, but our society cannot bear that  
4                   cost. If you boil things down to complete dollars  
5                   and cents, if you Commissioners further relax  
6                   ownership rules, you take away all incentive from  
7                   these faceless conglomerates to make all these  
8                   incredible local stories of compassionate community  
9                   involvement we've heard today possible. There won't  
10                  be enough people at each local station to make any  
11                  of them possible.

12                   Please don't allow us to slip further  
13                  down this slope. Thank you.

14                   MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

15                   Well, it's a bit after 3:00 and out time  
16                  within the Sunoco Theater here has indeed come to an  
17                  end. I know that there many of you still seeking to  
18                  comment. And commission staff will remain to ensure  
19                  that your comments are heard and made part of the  
20                  record in the Commissioners' Media Ownership  
21                  Proceeding.

22                   Fortunately, the Whitaker Center has  
23                  been kind enough to allow us to conclude out in  
24                  their lobby. And we're going to set up out there,  
25                  for those people who have not had a chance to make

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)

1 comment, we are going to set up with our court  
2 reporter and listen to everyone who has signed up to  
3 speak.

4 So, we'll be out in the lobby. It will  
5 take us 10 to 15 minutes, I believe to get  
6 everything set and then we will continue. So we  
7 will continue out in the lobby. Thank you very  
8 much.

9 (Whereupon the foregoing proceeding went  
10 off the record at 3:04 p.m. and went back on the  
11 record at 3:21 p.m.)

12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: All right. We are  
13 ready to begin at this point.

14 I guess I'll call up, you know, you  
15 don't have to come immediately to the mic, I'll just  
16 call out the next five names. One name, the first  
17 name I'm going to call out is a gentleman I actually  
18 called out his name and then didn't actually call  
19 him to the mic, I hope it's not more than one, but  
20 that's Tom Joyce. If he is here, Tom Joyce. Alan  
21 Boal. Come on up, sir. And then just by way of  
22 reference, after Alan, we have David Flick, Joseph  
23 Malloy. Okay?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do we have the  
25 rest of the Commissioners here, or are they gone for



1 the day?

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: We have Commissioner  
3 Adelstein. We hope that Commissioner Copps will  
4 join us shortly.

5 MR. BOAL: Good afternoon. I'm Alan  
6 Boal from Pittsburgh. I'm a member of the Board of  
7 Directors and past president of the Pittsburgh Local  
8 of AFTRA, the American Federation of Television and  
9 Radio Artists.

10 I have worked for more than 50 years as  
11 a news anchor and reporter in both radio and  
12 television. And for several years in the 1960s, I  
13 was Latin American Correspondent for the ABC  
14 Network.

15 Now a few years ago, media consolidation  
16 forced me into retirement. The radio station where  
17 I had worked for 30 years was sold to enable the  
18 owners, who also owned a lot of newspapers, to buy  
19 several stations in another market. And the company  
20 that bought the station where I worked owned several  
21 other stations in Pittsburgh. So it was sort of a  
22 double whammy from consolidation there. Now, my job  
23 was eliminated because the new format did away with  
24 all local newscasts, absolutely, which I think is a  
25 disservice to the public also.

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)

1                   Now, I have Social Security and I  
2                   continue to work as a freelance announcer, but more  
3                   than a dozen of my fellow broadcaster who were  
4                   younger and not eligible for Social Security lost  
5                   their jobs. Other local stations that had openings  
6                   at the time would never hire them because those  
7                   stations were owned by the company that had fired  
8                   them. Some were forced to sell their homes, pull  
9                   their kids out of school, move away to some far away  
10                  place. Or they had the other alternative of finding  
11                  local employment in some field completely alien to  
12                  them.

13                 And this is just one example of the  
14                 human cost of what's --

15                 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

16                 MR. BOAL: -- happening throughout the  
17                 industry, as a result of unchecked multiple  
18                 ownership in one market.

19                 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much,  
20                 Mr. Boal.

21                 MR. BOAL: Thank you. Thank you very  
22                 much.

23                 MODERATOR SIGALOS: David Flick.

24                 MR. FLICK: How you doing?

25                 I'd like to know where the other three

1 guys are, or the lady and the other two guys. I'd  
2 like to know who planned -- I'd like to know who did  
3 the PR for the advertising. I assume, when I throw  
4 a party, I've got to be there for the whole thing  
5 and I've got to make sure people know where it is.  
6 And I got a minute 50 to listen. No? Okay.

7 Consolidation, as far as I'm concerned,  
8 we've got to cut fish or -- we've got to cut, bait  
9 or fish here, consolidation is to collect your  
10 resources and not to redistribute them amongst a lot  
11 of other people. It is not to grab all your gear up  
12 and then go give it out some minorities, for  
13 instance. Okay?

14 At the risk of sounding hypercritical,  
15 the Board itself, obviously heavy laden with  
16 minorities, I'm not sure what impression I'm  
17 supposed to get. I'm not sure if it matters,  
18 really. It's really about money. It's about money,  
19 money, money, money, money on their side. And it's  
20 about my job and American jobs on the other sides.

21 When my grandfather's company was moved  
22 from Pittsburgh to Boonville, Arkansas, it was to  
23 have more space, to employ more people, to make more  
24 toys. How cool is that, when your grandfather makes  
25 toys? Okay? It was not to hire less people, to put

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)

1 less people and to make people who already have a  
2 ton of cash, more cash. Okay?

3 If it's as simple as saying vote no on  
4 Prop 249 or whatever it is, please don't consolidate  
5 anything else because I'm running out of places to  
6 work. All right? I'm a freelancer. It's all I do.  
7 I teach acting classes privately and I work as an  
8 actor and make a living in that field, whether  
9 you're in Pittsburgh, or New York, or L.A. or  
10 wherever you are is hard. I don't have a full-time  
11 paycheck. I don't have, except for my wife, I don't  
12 have healthcare, I don't get a lot of W-2s in my  
13 world. Okay?

14 Go ahead. Keep taking work away from  
15 the common man and there you go.

16 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.  
17 Next we have Joseph Malloy. And we have, coming up  
18 next, Lorrell Beckton, Widiiah Blackwell, and Jim  
19 Kobrinick. Joseph Malloy? Lorrell Beckton? Widiiah  
20 Blackwell? Jim?

21 MR. KOBRINICK: Hi. My name is Jim  
22 Kobrinick. Is this on?

23 MODERATOR SIGALOS: I believe it is.  
24 You may want to adjust it a bit. Yes.

25 MR. KOBRINICK: My name is Jim

1 Kobrinick. I made the trip down here on my own dime  
2 from Scranton, about, I don't know, two and a half,  
3 three hours. I waited through the whole day. I'm  
4 kind of disappointed to see three Commissioners not  
5 here. One point I'd like to make, I had a whole  
6 speech written up, but I'm not going to use it.  
7 Maybe the Commissioners that are here can relay this  
8 to the ones that aren't.

9 They may feel like you know, the people  
10 that expressed outrage here today are some kind of  
11 minority amongst the average American. And I would  
12 submit that it's possible that the average American  
13 is not even aware of what's going on, not even aware  
14 of how media consolidation affects their opinion  
15 making and their jobs, democracy in general.

16 And what is that speak to? If you don't  
17 hear it in the media, if you don't hear it from your  
18 newspapers, if nothing is brought up and if  
19 independent voices are squelched, where are you  
20 going to hear this information from? That's one  
21 thing.

22 I mean, really, it's been said before.  
23 I'll say it again. To me, I mean, it comes down  
24 between money and people's interest. The companies  
25 that are providing this entertainment news or this

1 headline news where nothing is dug deep into, we  
2 have the Iraq War where there was erroneous  
3 information. Nothing was -- the things that weren't  
4 covered, weren't put out for everyone to hear or  
5 there was not enough investigative journalism done  
6 and look where we're at.

7 I mean, I don't know what to say. I'm  
8 just very disappointed that these three  
9 Commissioners have chosen, after you know 150 people  
10 sign up, we've already been here six, seven hours,  
11 we can't have a full debate? I don't understand it.

12 So I would hope that they don't just  
13 brush us off like they brushed the rest of us off.  
14 You know, when it comes time to vote, please, no  
15 more on media consolidation.

16 Thank you.

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Kathleen  
18 Kennedy.

19 MS. KENNEDY: Kathleen Kennedy, private  
20 citizen, speaking only for myself from notes I have  
21 made throughout the hearing today.

22 I'm sure that those charitable  
23 activities we heard about this morning are very  
24 necessary and very appreciated by the recipients,  
25 but we have to see them in context.

1                   We need to remember in the 1960s the  
2                   Roman Catholic Bishop of Recife, Brazil said "When I  
3                   give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I  
4                   ask why the poor have no food, they call me a  
5                   communist." Now, I want to ask, I would like to  
6                   ask, who is more likely to ask why the poor have no  
7                   food, a consolidated conglomerate or a locally  
8                   owned, independently operated media?

9                   Now, four or five years ago -- I don't  
10                  watch television except for the weather. Four or  
11                  five years ago when I was waiting for the weather to  
12                  come on, the news late at night, the anchor, the  
13                  voice said, upcoming story, Castro bans democracy  
14                  from Cuba. Castro says there will never be any  
15                  democracy in Cuba. Living alone, I yelled, "That  
16                  rat!" When the story came on 10 or 15 minutes  
17                  later, the whole story was Castro bans capitalism  
18                  from Cuba. Castro says the Island's economy will  
19                  never be based on capitalism. This was a station  
20                  that testified this morning. I called them and they  
21                  never corrected the story.

22                  Three and a half decades ago, I became  
23                  familiar with a group in Pittsburgh, KNOW Press. A  
24                  woman in her kitchen with a mimeograph machine  
25                  copying the few women's history articles that

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)

1       existed. On every piece of literature that she  
2       copied for KNOW, it said "freedom of the press  
3       belongs to those who own the press." And after  
4       9/11, Clear Channel banned folk music from their  
5       stations? And one of the songs that was banned was  
6       "this land is your land, this land is my land, from  
7       California, to the New York Island, this land was  
8       made for you and me."

9               MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

10              MS. KENNEDY: These airways were made  
11       for you and me. And I'll just say what I wrote down  
12       five hours ago because it can't be repeated too  
13       often, power corrupts and absolute power corrupts  
14       absolutely.

15              MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Linda  
16       Jarsacratt. I don't think I said your name right,  
17       Linda? Lilly Joya?

18              MS. JOYA: Commissioner Adelstein,  
19       Commissioner Copps, you give me faith. I don't care  
20       where they went because they probably weren't  
21       listening anyway.

22              My name is Lilly Joya and I am a former,  
23       I am a retired journalist. And in New York, I was  
24       First Amendment Chair of the Society of Professional  
25       Journalists, the Deadline Club. And I care deeply

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)



1 about the First Amendment, which is why I so  
2 appreciate that you're here and you're still with  
3 it, after of all of this.

4 I moved to Pennsylvania five years ago  
5 and I'm the President of the Lehigh Valley Business  
6 and Professional Women's Club now.

7 And I guess I wanted to say that Dr.  
8 Phil says and every psychologist and every  
9 psychiatrist says, the best predictor of future  
10 behavior is past behavior.

11 And I was around in 1996 when there was  
12 no coverage on the major media of all the corporate  
13 lobbying that was going into the telecommunications  
14 bill. And I see that happening all over again. And  
15 I'll believe that things will change with the  
16 corporate media if I start seeing coverage on the  
17 evening news. I think over the many months, there  
18 were 30 minutes of coverage that all of this public  
19 airwaves were being made into a whore. Excuse me.

20 What I wanted to say is that a  
21 journalism conference at the University of Michigan  
22 last month had a constitutional scholar who was  
23 asked by Bob Woodward and many famous, well-known  
24 journalists, is our Constitution dead? And the  
25 scholar said, it's on life support.

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)

1                   And as someone who cares deeply about  
2                   the First Amendment and the continuous intimidation  
3                   of journalists and the most secret government in my  
4                   lifetime, I am just so happy that you had this  
5                   hearing, even though it's the best kept secret in  
6                   Easton, Bethlehem and Allentown. Thank you so much.

7                   MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Colleen  
8                   Bateman? Colleen.

9                   MS. BATEMAN: The FCC and the news media  
10                  have failed America. I travel back and forth  
11                  between Canada and the United States and I see the  
12                  difference between the cable news in the United  
13                  States and Canada. I see how the U.S. cable  
14                  stations focus on stories like Anna Nicole and  
15                  ignore serious issues that should be debated for  
16                  America to be a democracy.

17                 To get good news sources, I go to the  
18                 internet. I support internet neutrality. And I get  
19                 my news from the BBC. Somehow, the BBC has  
20                 maintained independence from corporations and the  
21                 government and continues high journalistic  
22                 standards. That is not happening in America. The  
23                 result of this loss of real news will be an American  
24                 public which ill-informed and unable to guide  
25                 American policy.

1           If Americans had been better informed  
2       about the issues involved with the War in Iraq, this  
3       nation might have avoided a tragic mistake. Even  
4       now, some Americans are saying, who could have known  
5       what would happen? My answer is, millions of people  
6       world-wide tried to stop that war and there were  
7       warnings about what would happen if the Americans  
8       invaded Iraq. The American news media did not give  
9       their point of view. That is a failure in America  
10      and it is a serious failure.

11           MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Jeffrey  
12      Lebo? Jeffrey Lebo?

13           MR. LEBO: Hello. My name is Jeffrey  
14      Lebo and I'm the owner of American Fallout Records,  
15      which is an independent record label based here in  
16      Pennsylvania. And I want to thank you guys for  
17      coming out here today. And I know it's been a long  
18      day for you, but I really appreciate you coming and  
19      listening to our comments and allowing us to speak  
20      freely.

21           I heard today no valid reasons why media  
22      should be further consulted -- consolidated, rather.  
23      I think history has shown that it's a disservice to  
24      us to have any further consolidation. We, the  
25      public, depend on the media to inform us with vital

1 information about our local communities, as well as  
2 what's going on in the world. And what's going on  
3 in the world is that the top ten percent of the U.S.  
4 population owns 90 percent of the wealth in this  
5 country. The top one percent controls almost half  
6 of the wealth. The bottom 65 percent of the people,  
7 which is most of the people here in Central  
8 Pennsylvania, collectively, own only one percent of  
9 the wealth. These facts are easily searchable on  
10 the internet.

11 I would venture a guess that the power  
12 brokers who benefit from media consolidation are  
13 among the elite. These people and the corporations  
14 they represent profit by keeping people in the dark.  
15 Democracy is the enemy of large corporations.  
16 Control of the media, et cetera.

17 An informed populous depends on the  
18 media. The media creates a collective reality,  
19 which often bears little resemblance to objective  
20 reality. If you want real reality, go down to the  
21 Walter Reed Hospital and visit all those soldiers  
22 coming back from Iraq with arms and legs blown off,  
23 soldiers who were lied to about their mission. You  
24 won't see these kinds of images on corporate  
25 controlled media.

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)

1                   People often ask me why there are no  
2 protest songs today. And I say that there are, but  
3 they're not making it on to Clear Channel. Just  
4 look what happened to the Dixie Chicks. The  
5 difference during the Vietnam era was that  
6 independent DJs and small town radio stations,  
7 program directors, had their playlists for them  
8 themselves. Now playlists are directed from,  
9 dictated for the entire country, by corporate. So,  
10 whether you're in Nashville or New Orleans --

11                   MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

12                   MR. LEBO: -- you're getting the same  
13 bland homogenous blathering that keeps us in the  
14 dark.

15                   MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

16                   MR. LEBO: Please don't have any more  
17 consolidation. Thank you.

18                   MODERATOR SIGALOS: Dorothy Fulton.

19                   MS. FULTON: Thank you two for staying.  
20 We really appreciate it. I'm Dorothy Fulton. I'm a  
21 retired Human Services Administrator and a community  
22 volunteer.

23                   And I can't add much to the many things  
24 that have been said today, except how can  
25 consolidation of the media benefit the consumer? I

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 don't see how it can. I think we don't have enough  
2 hard hitting thorough going journalism. We don't  
3 have enough preparation for our citizens to be good  
4 citizens. And we certainly haven't ensured  
5 diversity in media outlets, in ownership, or in  
6 presentations on the media.

7 And I would urge you not to vote to  
8 consolidate the media any further. Thank you very  
9 much.

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Karen  
11 El-Chaar?

12 MS. EL-CHAAR: Thank you. Hello. My  
13 name is Karen El-Chaar. I'm a professional  
14 musician. I'm President of the Lehigh Valley  
15 Musicians Association up in Allentown, Pennsylvania,  
16 otherwise known as Local 45 of the American  
17 Federation of Musicians. I represent approximately  
18 700 professional musicians in our area. I'm also  
19 President of the Federation's Local's Regional  
20 Conference of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and  
21 D.C., representing approximately 10,000 professional  
22 musicians. And generally speaking, the American  
23 Federations of Musicians represents the largest  
24 contingent of professional musicians in the world.

25 Since deregulation in 1996, much

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)

1 consolidation of radio broadcast media has occurred.  
2 Deregulation has fostered considerable growth in  
3 monopolies or at minimum, oligopolies, which have  
4 hampered the ability of local, non-nationally  
5 recognized musicians to obtain air time for the  
6 broadcast of their music.

7 Because of predetermined dictated  
8 programming by the large broadcast corporations, the  
9 public is relegated to listening to the same songs  
10 every day, with limited, if any, diversification in  
11 music programming. For example, travel across the  
12 country, not just locally, travel across the country  
13 with the radio dial set to FM, let's just say 93 on  
14 up, for example, and you're virtually guaranteed to  
15 hear the same songs, just broadcast from different  
16 cities. And we've heard that from numerous  
17 testimony today.

18 The corporate monopoly on the radio  
19 airwaves has seriously limited radio's ability to  
20 serve its local community. This hurts the average  
21 citizens and consumers, as they are not being given  
22 a real choice. It affects local artists especially  
23 by limiting their ability to get their music heard  
24 even in their own hometown.

25 The FCC needs to take action to restore

1 local ownership of radio stations and other media  
2 outlets. Thank you.

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Sylvia  
4 Strobel.

5 MS. STROBEL: Hello. I'm Sylvia  
6 Strobel, President and General Manager of the  
7 Pennsylvania Public Television Network, where I have  
8 the great privilege of working with the eight  
9 independent public TV stations in Pennsylvania.

10 I'm here this afternoon though, in my  
11 capacity as Vice-Chair of the National Board of  
12 American Women in Radio and Television.

13 We applaud the efforts of the FCC to  
14 assess media ownership concerns around the country.  
15 Diversity in media ownership is important to AWRT  
16 and to all of us here. But the key barrier to entry  
17 for new entrants seeking to own broadcast stations,  
18 is a lack of capital for that initial acquisition,  
19 particularly for any acquisition valued at under  
20 twenty million dollars. Since the FCC's goal of  
21 diversity was stressed by Chairman Martin this  
22 morning, it is critical for the FCC, working with  
23 other government agencies in private industry, to  
24 address the lack of and need for seed capital to  
25 allow new entrants to finance and acquire stations

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)



1 and thus, diversify media ownership nationwide.

2 Thank you.

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Anthony  
4 Riddle.

5 MR. RIDDLE: Hi. My name is Anthony  
6 Riddle. I'm the Executive Director of the Alliance  
7 for Community Media, representing all of the Public  
8 Educational and Government Access Channels in the  
9 country. Our members produce 20,000 of programming  
10 per week, which is more than all the broadcasters  
11 combined, using about 1.2 million volunteers, and  
12 serving a quarter million organizations a year  
13 across the country. I have fuller comments that I'd  
14 like to submit for the record.

15 Three points I'd like to make. Number  
16 one, we think that the measures for measuring media  
17 ownership ought to include cable and broadband  
18 ownership. I understand there's some -- I don't  
19 want that linked to anything else, but specifically,  
20 it doesn't make sense to us that somebody could be  
21 prohibited from buying another newspaper, but they  
22 would still be allowed to own all of the internet  
23 and video services regionally.

24 Number two, we think that in this  
25 atmosphere PEG, Public Education and Government